

Lesson
3

Complex Sentences

Teaching

A **complex sentence** has one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

Although every sport involves some risk, people who take part in extreme sports face a higher-than-average level of risk.

Many dependent clauses are introduced by a subordinating conjunction. A subordinating conjunction relates a dependent clause to an independent clause. Here is a list of common subordinating conjunctions:

after	as soon as	even though	than	until	wherever
although	because	if	though	when	which
as	before	since	unless	whenever	while

A. Understanding Complex Sentences

In each complex sentence below, find and underline one of the following independent clauses. Then underline each dependent clause twice.

My great-aunt rents a condo near the lake.
The falling tree barely missed the house.
Our class president introduced the speaker.

1. When the high winds blew it down, the falling tree barely missed the house.
2. My great-aunt, who is 84, rents a condo near the lake.
3. Our class president introduced the speaker, whose topic was choosing a career.
4. When she is in town each summer, my great-aunt rents a condo near the lake.
5. The falling tree barely missed the house where my cousin lives.
6. Our class president, who is in my home room, introduced the speaker.
7. My great-aunt rents a condo near the lake, which she can see from the balcony.
8. The falling tree, which was toppled by high winds, hit the garage.
9. My great-aunt rents a condo, which is really quite roomy, near the lake.
10. Although she had laryngitis, our class president introduced the speaker.

B. Understanding Complex Sentences

In each of these complex sentences, underline only the independent clause.

1. Although I try, I can't understand the appeal of extreme sports.
2. I saw a program where an extreme skier was interviewed.
3. A videotape, which was part of the program, showed her accident.
4. When she hit a rough spot, she fell and tumbled down the slope.
5. Though she had spent months recovering from her injuries, she wanted to try the slope again.

**Lesson
3****Complex Sentences*****More Practice*****A. Understanding Complex Sentences**

In each of these complex sentences, underline each independent clause once and each dependent clause twice.

1. Although the heat is on, it is still cold in here.
2. The trip takes an hour unless traffic is heavy.
3. When the music stops, change partners.
4. No one came when we called.
5. Horses can sleep while they stand.
6. When it gets dark, this light will go on automatically.
7. The bread is stale, although we just bought it.
8. No one may enter after the concert has begun.
9. The cashier had trouble when the electricity went out.
10. After the game ends, we'll go for something to eat.

B. Identifying Kinds of Sentences

Identify each sentence below with **S** for simple, **CD** for compound, or **CX** for complex.

1. One of the sports that can be classified as extreme is free diving. _____
2. Participants hold their breath and dive hundreds of feet straight down in the ocean. _____
3. Deep below the ocean, water pressure squeezes the internal organs of divers, and darkness blinds them. _____
4. The return to the surface can kill a diver if he or she comes up too fast. _____
5. When the body doesn't have time to adjust to changing pressure, internal gases expand too fast. _____
6. The sudden expansion of gases causes explosions in arteries. _____
7. Still, the activity is popular with people who like dangerous challenges. _____
8. The free diving federation refuses to recognize records in "no-limits" free diving because that method of diving is too dangerous. _____
9. "Variable-weight" and "constant-weight" free diving are approved methods. _____
10. Scuba divers, who wear oxygen tanks, accompany free divers to help them if problems arise underwater. _____

Complex Sentences

Application

A. Creating Complex Sentences

Combine each numbered sentence with the sentence that follows to make a complex sentence. Write the new sentence on the line provided.

(1) Ice climbing is a dangerous sport. In it, climbers pull themselves up frozen waterfalls. (2) The water was falling. It froze. (3) Climbers attach sharp pointed metal cleats to their boots. Then they start up. (4) The sun warms a frozen waterfall. The waterfall will give way under a climber.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

B. Revising Complex Sentences

Underline the independent clause in each of these complex sentences. Then rewrite the sentence, keeping the independent clause but supplying a new dependent clause for each of the original dependent clauses.

1. As darkness closed in around the campfire, we all began to shiver.

2. The traffic was heavier after the bus reached the downtown streets.

3. Although June had just begun, the lake was warm enough for swimming.

4. I feel like dancing whenever I hear my favorite song on the radio.
